

Virginia Recruitment and Retention

Virginia Commonwealth University

Background and organization: The Generalist Physician Initiative at VCU is a collaborative program organized through the Dean's Office of the School of Medicine and involving the Departments of Family Medicine, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics.

Admissions: The Admissions Committee continues its long-term efforts to identify and recruit students who have the potential to become generalist physicians, particularly those interested in providing care to the medically underserved.

Generalist Physician Training

- Foundations of Clinical Medicine (FCM) is a clinical skills course for first and second year students, implemented in 1995. FCM has been a major focus of the GPI at VCU, providing grounding in clinical skills and experience in generalist medical practice for all students (http://www.vcu.edu/familymedicine/ug_medical/foundations.html)
- Inner City/Rural Preceptorship, sponsored by the Department of Family Medicine, is open to all students at VCU's School of Medicine. Students begin ICRP during the first year of medical school and continue until completion of the fourth year. Participating students are matched with an underserved community for their clinical experiences in the Foundations of Clinical Medicine course and for six months during the third and fourth years of medical school. The program offers a variety of department-sponsored enrichment activities. (http://www.vcu.edu/familymedicine/ug_medical/icr_program.html)
- Primary Care Clerkships – Third Year Students
 - The Family Medicine clerkship teaches basic principles of generalist practice: caring for individuals in a community setting and understanding common health issues in a community. The four-week clerkship occurs in an ambulatory setting.
 - In Internal Medicine, one month (of the three-month clerkship) is devoted to care of adults in the outpatient setting. Students are placed either in the community or on the academic campus.
 - In Pediatrics, one month (of the two-month clerkship) is spent caring for children in the ambulatory setting. Students work with a primary care pediatrician in the community for two of those weeks.
- Graduate Medical Education. VCU School of Medicine offers four generalist residency training programs: Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and a Medicine/Pediatrics combined program. Because of the clinical locations and tradition of the institution, residency training in all of VCU's programs is linked to the care of underserved populations. These experiences teach physicians to integrate their technical expertise with community resources to ensure comprehensive care for vulnerable populations, and enhance their commitment to patients regardless of ability to pay.
 - Family Medicine - <http://www.vcu.edu/familymedicine>, 804-828-9626
 - Internal Medicine - <http://www.intmed.vcu.edu/inm/general.shtml>, 804-828-3389
 - Pediatrics - <http://www.vcu.edu/pediatrics>, 804-828-9602

Retention Collaborative Team Virginia Recruitment and Retention Team

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